

September 8, 2008

PO Box 191  
Sandersville, GA 31082

SEP 11 2008

Dr. Carol Couch  
Director, Environmental Protection Division  
Department of Natural Resources  
Suite 1152, East Floyd Tower  
2 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive SE,  
Atlanta, Georgia 30334

Dear Dr. Couch,


I am writing in reference to the air and water permit applications filed by Power4Georgians for the proposed coal-fired power plant in Washington County, permit application # 17924. Since I first heard of the proposed Plant Washington, I have read the applications and tried to understand the impact that this plant would have on the air quality and water in our community. I am particularly concerned since my family property adjoins the plant property and I am concerned about living so close to this plant. After several months of study, I am still reading research and anticipate that I will need much more time to fully understand this.

I am writing to ***request that the public comment period for consideration of draft permits be extended longer than the customary 30 days.*** In addition to my needing time to complete my study of the issues involved, I think that some people in this community think that putting a coal-fired plant so far from a groundwater source, particularly in the current drought, is so ludicrous that they do not take this application seriously. When draft permits are issued and the notice is sent (which I hope will be to both of the county newspapers), I believe these people will recognize the seriousness of this proposal and will begin to look into this and will want to ask questions and make their concerns known. If you could allot 90 days for the public comment period, I would appreciate this. This is a decision that will impact our lives, as well as those of our children and grandchildren. In looking at a 40-50 year impact, I think an extra 60 days would be worthwhile.

There is already some local concern about the impact that this plant will have on our county. We are an area that is identified as having issues with PM2.5 levels, and the groundwater level in the Cretaceous Aquifer has declined over 50 feet here since the USGS began monitoring it in the 1950's. As educational meetings have been held on these issues, we have heard from "experts" who say there is nothing to worry about and other "experts" who say we should be very concerned. We need to have adequate opportunities to ask questions and obtain credible answers. I would also like to ***request that you hold at least one public hearing on this permit in Washington County.***

I would ***appreciate being added to your list of those notified when the draft permits are issued and when hearings will be held.*** My address is : ***Cathy Mayberry, PO Box 191, Sandersville, GA 31082*** Thank you for your consideration in this matter. I appreciate the work that you do to insure a safe environment for the citizens of Georgia.

Sincerely,

  
Cathy Mayberry